

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8480

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5111

EXDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA

SUBJ: SAUDI VIEWS ON THE "NEW RELATIONSHIP"

REF : A) JIDDA5025; B) STATE 193337; C) JIDDA 5112

1. PRINCE MUSA'ID, MINISTER OF FINANCE, AND ABA AL-KHAIL ALONG WITH YAMANI HAVE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT WE WERE PERHAPS MOVING TOO FAST ON THE "NEW RELATIONSHIP" AND SHOULD WAIT AND SEE HOW THE POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST DEVELOP.

2. I AM CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT YAMANI'S VIEWS (REF A) ARE DUE ALMOST ENTIRELY TO HIS FEELING THAT WE HAVE NOT GIVEN HIM ADEQUATE SUPPORT WITH PRINCE FAHD AND, ESPECIALLY, WITH IRAN AND OTHER OPEC COUNTRIES IN GETTING OIL PRICES REDUCED. I DID NOT TELL HIM I WOULD TRY TO GET THE DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW ITS POSITION ON THE APPROACH TO FAHD AND SO OF COURSE WILL NOT TELL HIM OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DECISION. FAHD SEEMS TO BE UP TO HIS NECK IN NEW OIL CORRUPTION (SEE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TELEGRAM REF C) SO THE APPROACH PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED ANYWAY. THE REASON FOR MY REQUEST, AS I STATED EARLIER, WAS PRIMARILY TO SHOW YAMANI THAT WE HAD INDEED DONE EVERYTHING WE COULD. AND THERE WAS ALWAYS A SLIGHT CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

3. THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT ADDRESS ITSELF IN REF B TO THE QUESTIONS OF A JOINT US-UK-GERMAN-FRENCH APPROACH TO THE

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KING, OR TO FURTHER APPROACHES TO THE SHAH AND OTHERS IN

OPEC. I HOPE THESE MATTERS ARE STILL BEING CONSIDERED.

4. I WILL SPEND THE WEEKEND (SEPTEMBER 5-6) AT YAMANI'S HOME IN THE MOUNTAINS AND AM FAIRLY SURE HE WILL MELLOW A BIT. AS I TOLD GERALD PARSKY (TRUEASURY ASSISTANT SECRETARY) BY PHONE YESTERDAY (SEPTEMBER 3), I HOPED THE WORKING GROUPS WITH PARSKY PRESENT, WOULD GO FORWARD AS SCHEDULED. I WILL HAVE A REPORT ON THIS IN WASHINGTON BY THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 7.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WERE MOST INTERESTED IN SAQQAF'S STATEMENTS ON THE WORKING GROUPS. HE HAD EXPRESSED TO US NO SUCH IMPATIENCE AT OUR SLOWNESS. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO RPT NO REPORTS OF ANY OF THE CONVERSATIONS SAQQAF HAD IN WASHINGTON AND WHILE HE WILL BRIEF ME FULLY WHEN HE RETURNS ON HIS VERSION OF WHAT HE SAID AND WHAT WAS SAID TO HIM, WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE RECEIVE CABLE SUMMARY ACCOUNTS OF HIS TALKS.
AKINS

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